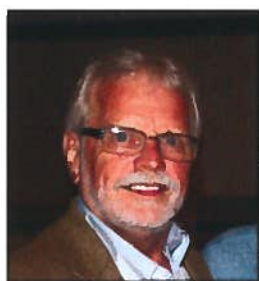


First Impressions of WIOA (Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act)**by Lennox McLendon***Lennox McLendon**National Council of
State Directors of Adult
Education*

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) in 1998 encouraged and promoted collaboration between the programs included under the Act. That collaboration materialized in many states and localities but did not in many others. WIOA goes a step further in promoting that collaboration in hopes that those receiving services will find them seamless and easy to navigate. Here are three examples:

Unified State Plan: Where a joint WIA state plan was encouraged, Nevada did not have one. WIOA requires a Unified State Plan between Titles I and II, administered by the Nevada Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation (DETR) and the Nevada Department of Education, respectively. All of the job training, employment services, youth services, adult education and family literacy and vocational rehabilitative services will be included in one plan. Therein, each program must demonstrate how it will increase access to, and opportunities for education and training and align all services to support a comprehensive accessible system of services. (Section 102/Page 51)

Performance Measures: In WIA, each Title had its own set of performance measures which at times stymied collaboration. In WIOA one set of performance measures applies to all Titles. (Section 116/Page 125)

Local and Regional Planning: In WIA local collaboration was encouraged. In WIOA, regional planning and collaboration are required. (Section 107/Page 93 and Section 108/Page 113).

In February 2015, the Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education will publish draft regulations that will provide more specific details on expectations and requirements.

**Governor Sandoval spotlights
Nevada Adult Education**

Governor Brian Sandoval recently shone his monthly Silver State Spotlight recognition program on the Nevada Department of Education. The Governor recognized the fact that beginning this year, the State of Nevada became the first in the nation to provide multiple options for High School Equivalency (HSE) assessments. By offering multiple methods for obtaining a HSE certificate, "the Department of Education is expanding the pathway to professional success for thousands of Nevadans whose employment opportunities would otherwise be limited," according to the Governor's office. Congratulations!

Everyone needs to know about the PIAAC

by Claudia Bianca

The Survey of Adult Skills is an international survey that was conducted in 33 countries as part of the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC). It measured the key cognitive and workplace skills needed for individuals to participate in society and for economies to prosper. The results of the survey were released on October 2013.

The U.S. had 36 million learners below level 1 (on a 5-scale level). Most were young adults; 2/3 were male, 1/3 were immigrants, and more than half were black and Hispanic. The U.S. scored very low in language arts and even lower in mathematics as compared to the other countries. Division of Adult Education and Literacy Director Cheryl Keenan said in her own words, "This put us below the middle of the pack. This is definitely an inequity issue in the U.S. More than 60% of the 36 million have a H.S. Diploma. The results show that we haven't been doing enough for low skilled adults."



Claudia Bianca
NV ABE Professional
Development Manager

A recap of Keenan's recommendations included:

- We need all states to help each other
- We need to engage more employers
- Low skills need to be embraced as more than an economic issue
- "Barriers to Employment" is a key term in the WIOA (low income, lack of English, lack of basic skills)
- We need to partner with other agencies to help our adult learners who fall into this category
- We all need to be using the College and Career Readiness Standards

Overall, Nevada is implementing many of the recommended initiatives:

- Mentor Project
- ASE transitions classes and workshops
- Using the College and Career Readiness Standards for *all* of our learners
- Quality professional development opportunities for all of our teachers and tutors
- Sharing of program promising practices
- Our newly developed teacher standards
- Inserting math and STEM activities into all programs (ABE, ELL and ASE), all levels
- A blog created for our educators to share best practices and resources



**ABE Professional
Development Blog**

For more information about the PIAAC, go to <http://skills.oecd.org>.

Take Adult Ed classes You'll feel better!



Participating in adult education courses could significantly improve people's wellbeing, even their health, according to a new study (<http://www.bell-project.eu/cms>). Researchers at the University of Eastern Finland examined the responses of adult learners participating in non-vocational courses over a year and discovered that studying boosted their self-confidence and wellbeing, as well as expanding their social networks. Tolerance for others grew, learners paid more attention to their health, and some even reported changes in their work and career opportunities. Adult education was found to be particularly beneficial for people with a lower educational level.

Website a resource for all



www.NevadaAdultEducation.org

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Nevada's Adult Education website (www.NevadaAdultEducation.org) provides educators with access to links for College and Career Readiness Standards, Curricula, Professional Development opportunities, Nevada's [Professional Development Resource Bank](#), and many other resources.

Administrators can examine and download current policies, forms, and presentations. Students and supporters may be interested in individual program information, [success stories](#), statistics, and fact sheets. All searchable from the site ... check it out!

NEW HSE policy documents available

Two new HSE policy documents, HSE Certificate Policy, and HSE Testing Center Policy, have been posted online at http://cteac.nv.gov/Adult_Education/HSE/Administration_and_Regulations/

These two documents provide clarification and guidance regarding the administration of HSE testing. Please read and share these important documents.

Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/NevadaAdultEd

Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/NevadaAdultEd

Calendar of key adult education conferences

See <http://nvedu.org/conferencenotes> for Nevada educators' reviews of recent conferences

What: National Career Pathways Network Conference, Oct 12-14, 2014, Orlando, FL

Contact: <http://www.ncpn.info/2014-ncpn-conf.php>

What: CATESOL Annual Conference, Oct 23-26, 2014, Santa Clara, CA

Contact: <http://catesol.org/annualconference/>, catesolbb@hotmail.com

What: Association for Continuing Higher Education (ACHE) Conference, Oct 27-28, 2014, Las Vegas, NV

Contact: <http://www.acheinc.org/>

What: AAACE, Nov 4-7, 2014, (pre-conferences 2-4), Charleston, SC

Contact: <http://www.aaace.org/2014-conference>

What: Effective Transitions in Adult Education (National College Transition Network), Nov 12-14, 2014, Providence, RI

Contact: www.collegetransition.org

What: NAEPDC/NCSDAE, National Training Institute, Nov. 12-14, 2014 San Francisco, CA

Contact: www.naepdc.org

What: ETS/HiSET® Annual Conference, Dec 1-4, 2014, Las Vegas, NV

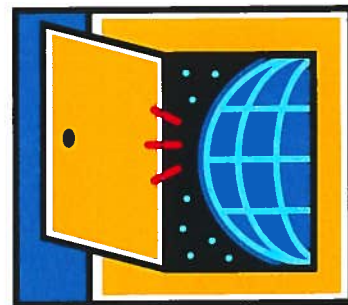
Contact: www.hisct.ets.org

What: Learning Forward Annual Conference, Dec 6-10, 2014, Nashville, TN

Contact: www.learningforward.org

What: Mountain Plains Adult Education Association, April 21-24, 2015

Contact: www.mpaca.org



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Northern Nevada Literacy Council



NNLC parents and their children read together at the Summer Reading Program funded in part by the Bessie Minor Swift Foundation. Photo by Kelsey Rosser.

Northern Nevada Literacy Council is unique among the seven programs funded through the Nevada Department of Education's administration of Adult Education Family Literacy Act (AEFLA)-funded programs as the only community-based non-profit. NNLC was founded in 1978 and is located in the low-income northeast section of Reno where the poverty level is 61% greater than the Reno average and 103% greater than the Nevada average. The violent crime rate is 16% higher than the Reno average and property values are 30% less—an environment where an adult education program is able to thrive.

Great referral relationships with other non-profits and government agencies have allowed NNLC to grow with a 129% increase in students in the past two years with 678 adult students educated last year and a 192% increase in the number of their students receiving their Certificates of High School Equivalency. NNLC offers HSE prep and ESL classes as well as Career Pathways services. NNLC is also a HiSET and GED testing center.

Signing on

Allow me to introduce myself, Susan Robinson, as the new *Nevada Connections'* editor filling the formidable shoes of Sharyn Yanoshak. Please contact me with suggestions, ideas, and input for the newsletter. My email is director@nnlc.org, or call me at (775) 356-1007. I look forward to hearing from you!

Nevada Connections is on the web at <http://nvcedu.org/nc>.



Learning never exhausts the mind. —Leonardo da Vinci